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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,098	06/13/2001	Mayumi Tomikawa	826.1729	3219

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/879,098

Applicant(s)

TOMIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Thjuan P. Knowlin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15-24 and 26-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15-24 and 26-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/20/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on October 25, 2006 has been entered. Claims 1, 13, 15, and 19-24 have been amended. Claims 14 and 25 have been cancelled. Claims 27 and 28 have been added. Claims 1-13, 15-24, and 26-28 are now pending in this application, with claims 1, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, and 28 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13, 15-24, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodialam et al (US 6,778,531), in view of Joshi (US 5,317,566).
3. In regards to claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, and 28, Kodialam discloses a distribution route generation apparatus and method (See col. 3-4 lines 51-21), comprising: a collection device (See Fig. 3 and network management module 305) collecting information about a communication cost between a plurality of nodes (See Fig. 3 and nodes N1-N11) of a communication network (See Fig. 3 and network 300) (See col. 1-2 lines 53-8, col. 5 lines 1-25, col. 8 lines 4-12, and col.

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10 lines 30-48) the nodes including a plurality of redistribution servers (e.g. distributed router servers, See col. 5 lines 1-12) which copy and branch streaming data at respective branch points in the communication network to multi-cast the streaming data in an application layer (See col. 1 lines 14-30); a generation device (e.g. router server within the network management module 305 or See Fig. 6, router 600, and col. 14 lines 46-63) automatically generating distribution route information, which indicates a plurality of distribution routes to a plurality of clients on the communications network through at least one of the redistribution servers from a source, based on the information about the communications cost when streaming data are originated and distributed from the source to the plurality of clients; and an output device (e.g. multicast routing tree or server) outputting the distribution route information (See col. 3 lines 13-24, col. 6 lines 14-36, col. 7 lines 25-41, and col. 11-12 lines 63-11). Kodialam, however, does not disclose the cost as being based on delay and number of hops, stream rate, reference rate, predetermined value as an additional cost, and coefficients used to convert delay to number of hops. Joshi, however, does disclose the cost as being based on delay, number of hops, and stream rate (i.e., bandwidth and/or transmission rate) (See col. 2 lines 29-40 and col. 4 lines 32-51), therefore, it would have been obvious to use such things as, reference rate, predetermined value as an additional cost, and coefficients used to convert delay to number of hops, to determine cost. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ these features within the apparatus and method, as a way of calculating proximity dynamically and automatically in order to decide whether to move content based upon

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the proximity calculation, such as delay (e.g. measured congestion on the network path between the nodes), number of hops, and stream rate (i.e., bandwidth and/or transmission rate). This would improve and optimize the delivery of content to client devices and end-users.

4. In regards to claims 2, 3, and 18, Kodialam discloses all of claims 2, 3, and 18 limitations, except the distribution route generation apparatus, wherein said generation device generates the distribution route information by selecting a receiver node in such a way that a communications cost between the source and the receiver node is minimized. Joshi, however, does disclose the distribution route generation apparatus, wherein said generation device generates the distribution route information by selecting a receiver node in such a way that a communications cost between the source and the receiver node is minimized (See col. 2 lines 29-40 and col. 4 lines 32-51).

5. In regards to claim 5, Kodialam discloses the distribution route generation apparatus, wherein said generation device divides the nodes into the groups using a branch in which a communications cost between nodes is equal to or more than a threshold value, as a boundary (See col. 1-2 lines 53-8, col. 8 lines 4-12, col. 11-12 lines 63-11, and col. 13 lines 52-67).

6. In regards to claim 8, Kodialam discloses the distribution route generation apparatus, wherein said restriction device detects a router located within a first restricted number of hops from a measuring node performing measurement, based on information about a route from the source to the measuring node and designates a node

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located within a second restricted number of hops from the detected router as a measurement target (See col. 3 lines 29-48 and col. 10 lines 30-48).

7. In regards to claims 11 and 12, Kodialam discloses all of claims 11 and 12 limitations, except the distribution route generation apparatus, wherein said generation device further generates distribution route information indicating a substitute distribution route, excluding a part in which a failure is anticipated to occur on the communications network. Joshi, however, does disclose the distribution route generation apparatus, wherein said generation device further generates distribution route information indicating a substitute distribution route, excluding a part in which a failure is anticipated to occur on the communications network (See col. 1 lines 45-51).

8. In regards to claim 26, Kodialam discloses all of claim 26 limitations, except a system, wherein the network comprises the Internet. Joshi, however, does disclose a system, wherein the network comprises the Internet (See Fig. 1 and network 10).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13, 15-24, and 26-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Akhtar (US 6,418,139) teaches a mechanism to guarantee quality of service to real-time traffic on IP networks. Saleh (US 7,002,917) teaches a

method for path selection in a network. Meier (US 6,714,559) teaches a redundant radio frequency network having a roaming terminal communication protocol.

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

12. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

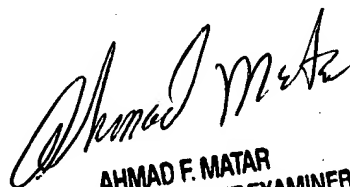
14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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